

2004
Missouri
Republican Party
Platform

“Our Plan for a Brighter Future”

The Republican Party is the Party of Optimism.

Missourians are hard working, honest and devoted to their families and communities. The people deserve a state government that reflects and honors these same values.

We are optimistic about the future of Missouri. Our state's greatness is born in the hearts of her people, nourished by loving families and strong communities, and maintained through generations by the freedom to pursue our dreams.

Most of what is important in life we do willingly for ourselves and for each other, without the government. We form our own families and raise our own children. We choose what we want to do in life. We pray to our God as we choose. We form and join the religious and civic groups that care for our neighbors in need and shape the direction of our state. There are only a few things we need the government to do for us; but it should do those things well and faithfully.

Missourians deserve a state government with the vision to see the bright future ahead, and the effective leadership to guide us there. We pledge to provide both the vision and the effective leadership Missourians need.

WE BELIEVE that all of us are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is our fundamental belief that our morals, our values and our culture are derived from A lmighty God, and we're committed to keeping it that way. To quote the Psalmist, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12.

WE BELIEVE the strength of A merica is in the hearts and homes of its citizens.

WE BELIEVE in the right of Missourians to be secure in their persons, their homes and their communities.

WE BELIEVE government governs best when it governs least

WE BELIEVE that all political power is vested in and derived from the people; that all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

WE BELIEVE the role of the federal government should be "to ensure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense and to promote the general welfare." Therefore, WE SUPPORT the efforts of the Republican Congress and President Bush to return power to the states, as provided in the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WE BELIEVE in the Republican Party as the best vehicle to build on the principles of free enterprise, personal responsibility, economic opportunity, strong families, moral values and sound government.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the county and local levels. We encourage their work to advance good government.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the state level. Without question, Missourians are better off with Republicans leading both chambers of the Legislature.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the federal level. Americans are safer, stronger, and more optimistic about the future with Republican majorities in Congress and a Republican in the White House.

WE COMMEND President Bush for restoring real American values, integrity, credibility, vision, strength and character to the White House.

**“Our state’s
greatness is born
in the hearts
of her people...”**

Family

Families are the bedrock of American life. This question should measure every public policy: Does it strengthen or weaken our families? Policies that strengthen our families should be pursued. Those that would weaken the family structure must be discarded.

No Child Left Behind

Education is a true vehicle of opportunity. The education of Missouri's children is much more than the first fiscal priority mandated in the State Constitution. It is our moral imperative.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- Efforts to put an immediate end to the policy of withholding appropriated funds from public schools.
- An amendment to the Missouri Constitution that recognizes the right of parents to determine their children's education including the options of home schooling and educating their children in a faith-based school free of burdensome government regulations.
- Regular and systematic objective testing within the public school system that accurately measures student achievement,

allowing comparisons between one district and another, and between one year's graduates and another, together with publication of these results.

- The expanded use of charter schools where students are allowed to learn without the burdensome interference of education bureaucrats from Jefferson City, including the ability of outstanding school districts to escape burdensome regulations by reforming themselves as Charter School Districts.
- Efforts at the state and federal levels to adopt a fair system that grants parents the ability to help their children escape failing schools and attend schools of their choice by using vouchers, tax credits or direct payments. No child should be trapped in a failing school.
- Education savings accounts that are tax exempt and may be used for meeting education expenses for each individual or family member without penalty for withdrawal.
- The authority of parents as the primary educators of their children in all matters, including morality and sexual responsibility.
- Quick action to address the urban education crisis that has already sacrificed the futures of generations of young people.
- Policies that stress the importance of parents in the education system and allow and

encourage parents to play an active role in their local education system.

- Reforming the process of selecting the State Board of Education to improve accountability to the people.
- Rejecting the establishment of school-based clinics/health links that dispense contraceptives and provide abortion counseling.
- Requiring the informed consent of a parent or guardian before providing health, mental health or substance abuse treatment services to minor students in public schools.
- Empowering local school districts to determine how best to handle the teaching of creationism and the theory of evolution.
- Protecting children in our public schools and any public entity where computers and the Internet are made readily available from pornography on the Internet, with local entities choosing the proper filter.
- Local school boards in their efforts to guarantee quality instruction and to remove the rare unfit teacher.

***“Families are the bedrock
of American life.”***

The Fundamental Right to Life

Civil Rights for all citizens, regardless of race or creed and including the fundamental right to life for born and unborn children, the aged, the terminally ill, and the handicapped should be provided for in our laws and in our Constitution. We reaffirm our support for a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children, and encourage those institutions, including faith-based initiatives, that take a proactive approach in teaching sexual responsibility to our young people.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party
SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that provides women seeking an abortion with information regarding alternatives such as adoption, and increasing tax credits to encourage adoption.
- Requiring a minor obtain parental notification and consent before obtaining an abortion.
- An immediate end to partial birth abortions.
- Laws which would stop taxpayer money from being spent on abortion or given to organizations which perform abortions or make abortion referrals.
- Legislation that prevents public employees from making abortion referrals.

- Efforts to insure that abortion clinics meet the same Department of Health standards required of comparable surgical facilities in the state.
- Legislation overturning *Roe vs. Wade* and the appointing of Federal and State judges that respect the sanctity of innocent human life.
- Legislation to prohibit “assisted suicide”.
- The continuing opposition to fetal tissue research and efforts to eliminate such research within the state of Missouri.
- Legislation to prohibit all human cloning.
- The compassionate work of individuals and organizations that offer alternatives to abortions by meeting the physical, emotional and financial needs of pregnant women and those support systems necessary for legal adoption.

Life

Marriage

The traditional family is the foundation of our great history and critical to our future. The government must formally recognize that only the joining of a male and a female constitutes marriage. Building futures through hard work and personal responsibility are American values that should be encouraged by government policy.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- The primary role of parents to provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment as well as the guidance, discipline and moral upbringing of their children.
- A Constitutional Amendment clearly stating that only marriages between a man and a woman will be valid and recognized, whether performed in Missouri or any other state or nation.
- Efforts to promote healthy marriages.
- A permanent end to the marriage penalty in the tax code.

Comprehensive Health Security

Everyone should be able to choose and access a health plan that meets their needs at a price they can afford. Seniors deserve more health care choices and assistance where needed with the high costs of health care and prescription drugs.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- President Bush's bold initiative to modernize and strengthen America's health care system by giving Medicare recipients more health care choices.
- Tort reform to stop the abuse and misuse of Missouri's judicial system through the filing of frivolous lawsuits.
- Legislation to protect Missouri's health care providers from spiraling malpractice insurance costs and to preserve for Missourians the highest quality of affordable and accessible health care.

Faith

Missouri's many and diverse faith communities are important to the rich fabric of our society. Government has nothing to fear from people of faith and much to gain. Faith communities should be embraced and allowed to offer assistance to those in need without undue bureaucratic interference.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party
SUPPORTS:

- President Bush's visionary faith-based initiatives.
- Freedom to practice our religion, as an individual choice, including prayer in school.
- Protecting the acknowledgement of God in our public life.
- Keeping the phrase "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Keeping "In God We Trust" on our currency and in other public declarations.
- All efforts to honor and preserve America's religious heritage and remain true to the founding principles upon which this nation was founded.

Freedom

Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is God's gift to each individual. America has a solemn duty to stand for freedom, at home and abroad, and a special responsibility to help make the world a more peaceful place. Fighting for freedom in foreign lands helps prevent the necessity of fighting the enemies of freedom in our homeland.

Homeland Security

Since September 11, 2001, President Bush has made tremendous progress in protecting and defending the American homeland. The President has improved the government's ability to protect our infrastructure, guard our borders and patrol our skies. He is doing a superb job of bringing security to our citizens and justice to our enemies.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- The Bush Doctrine of taking the War on Terror directly to the enemies of freedom wherever they try to hide.
- The liberation of Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom and of Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- The creation of a federal Department of Homeland Security and the increased coordi-

- nation of the gathering and use of intelligence.
- The fair application of the Patriot Act as a means to provide law enforcement authorities with the tools necessary to prevent terrorist attacks while protecting our individual liberties.
- Improved monitoring of foreign students and increased background checks on aliens applying for visas.
- All efforts to root out the agents of terror and protect Americans from the evils of terrorism.

*“America has a
solemn duty to stand
for freedom...”*

Strong National Security

Defending the nation against its enemies is the first and fundamental commitment of the federal government. America must use its position of unparalleled strength and influence to create a balance of power in the world that favors freedom.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- Committing the resources necessary to fight and to win the War on Terror.
- Defending the peace by opposing and preventing violence by terrorists and outlaw regimes.
- Preserving the peace by fostering an era of good relations among the world's great powers.
- Extending the peace by seeking to spread the benefits of freedom and prosperity across the globe.
- A strong national defense that protects our strategic interests and those of our allies.
- The expansion of all technologies, including a national missile defense system that will allow the United States to intercept any nuclear attack before it reaches our borders.
- Increasing the size and strength of our armed forces and improving the compensation provided to military personnel.

- A strong Missouri National Guard and Reserve as an element of the national military structure and to provide support to civil authority, in time of emergency or disaster.
- All troops deployed by the United States government.
- The deployment of our troops only when clear national interests are involved.
- The integrity and independence of our U. S. troops under U.S. command.
- The military's courageous efforts, including the vision and determination of our Commander-in-Chief, to protect us from the threat of global terrorism.

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fundamental commitment
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Property Rights and the Environment

Landowners have the right to manage their property as good stewards of the land without government interference. We believe the source of our riches is embodied in the production of our foods and the protection of our environment. We realize the wealth of our nation comes from the land and the conservation and wise use of our resources are essential to the future of America.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- Policies and programs that enhance agricultural production.
- Value-added production and job growth by processing our raw agricultural products in Missouri.
- A long-term agricultural policy that enhances our family farms and their ability to compete.
- A common sense approach to environmental policy by both the federal and state governments that does not infringe upon the rights of landowners.
- Only the constitutionally sound use of eminent domain when strictly necessary for the benefit of the general public and only when full and adequate compensation is provided to the property owner.
- Limitations upon excessive land use regulation and zoning that deny property owners the

- fair use of their property
- Common sense reform of the Endangered Species Act in a manner that enhances private ownership of land while providing environmental protection.
- Environmental regulation premised upon sound free market principles and elimination of environmental regulation that imposes excessive financial burdens.
- Policies that recognize that food production and environmental protection are both essential to life in our society.
- All efforts to prohibit the United Nations or any foreign entity from exercising control over United States lands, public or private.
- Comprehensive energy legislation that will provide reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy for America's future, reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy and responsibly provide for the development of our domestic energy sources.
- Efforts to promote conservation and diversify our energy supply.

***“...the wealth of our nation
comes from the land...”***

Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice

The Missouri Republican Party is committed to supporting law enforcement personnel and a fair and swift judicial system that protects us from those who would hurt our families or threaten our communities. Missourians deserve protection from the concerns and fears associated with crime and drugs. Our law enforcement officers are putting their lives on the line every day to protect us. They need and deserve our help.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party
SUPPORTS:

- Swift judgment and sure and appropriate punishment of those who are guilty, with limits on the number of appeals.
- Compassion for, and restitution to, crime victims.
- Prompt acquittal of the innocent and expunging of all pertinent records.
- Compassion and consideration for those who have been improperly incarcerated.
- Capital punishment where called for and administered in a fair and constitutional manner with all protection afforded by judicial review but without protracted and frivolous appeals.
- Greater latitude for law enforcement officials to use incriminating evidence in the courts.

- Protection of individual liberties guaranteed under the Constitution.
- An act of Congress mandating the supremacy and controlling authority of the U.S Constitution and federal law and the constitutions and laws of the several states and prohibiting federal courts from according any United Nations or foreign court declaration, law or precedent any weight or authority greater than such federal and state constitutional and statutory authority.
- Appointment of federal and state judges who believe in the rule of law and understand that the role of a judge is to interpret our laws, not make them.
- A prompt and fair vote by the United States Senate on all judicial nominees by the President, according to the Constitution, without a minority of senators obstructing the process through the improper use of the filibuster.
- Trying violent juvenile offenders as adults.
- Making records of violent juvenile offenders available to school and local authorities.
- Zero tolerance for illegal drugs and those who make, sell and distribute illegal drugs.
- Preserving and interpreting the Bill of Rights, including the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, in the manner intended by the founding fathers.
- The strict enforcement of existing gun laws but not the creation of new and unnecessary gun control laws.
- The efforts of Legislators to allow law-abid-

ing Missourians to carry concealed firearms.

- Efforts to address the special concerns of spouses, children, older people and others who become victims of abuse.
- Strict and swift prosecution of election fraud.
- Efforts to assure fair and honest elections, making sure all legally cast votes are counted so that all participants respect the integrity of the election.
- Enforcing those limits upon gambling established by the citizens of this state in the Missouri State Constitution and prohibit the further expansion of gambling within Missouri beyond that already authorized in the Constitution.
- Aggressive enforcement of existing laws related to child pornography and adult-oriented industries that target Missouri families and children, and further development of law enforcement tools to protect Missourians from such exploitation.
- Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to enhance the enforcement of obscenity and decency standards on television and radio, and to increase the punishments for violators.
- Policies that encourage immigration by a manageable number of immigrants who desire to become citizens of this nation and who will contribute to the greatness of the United States.
- Full and fair enforcement of immigration law with the commitment of those resources necessary to maintain the security of our national

borders.

- Fair and effective efforts to assure that people who register to vote in our elections are indeed citizens of the United States lawfully entitled to cast a ballot.

“Missourians deserve protection from the concerns and fears associated with crime and drugs.”

Free Enterprise and Fiscal Responsibility

The people should be taxed only to the extent necessary to provide a balanced budget funding the essential functions of government in a manner that is simple, equitable and uniform. Missouri families can be trusted to know how to spend their money more wisely than government. Free enterprise and fiscal responsibility go hand in hand. Quality jobs are created by private enterprise - not from tax dollars confiscated from the workers and producers of this country.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- A major overhaul of our tax code with the objective of simplifying tax law and regulation and providing for a fair and uniform rate of taxation.
- Reducing the overall combined tax burden.
- Eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Keeping and enforcing the Hancock Amendment and electing officials who respect its goals and principles.

- Maintaining the current moratorium on Internet taxation.
- Regular zero-based budget reviews for each agency to require them to account for every tax dollar they spend.
- Performance of government functions at the level of government closest to the people that can most efficiently perform the task.
- Term limits for lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and auditor that mirror those already in place for governor and treasurer.
- Streamlining of government services and utilities to avoid duplication at the city, county and state level.
- Making the 2001 federal tax cuts permanent, including the important steps of abolishing the death tax and the marriage penalty in the tax code.
- Offering people the option of exercising individual control over a portion of their FICA contributions.
- President Bush's plan to keep Social Security strong and financially secure for America's children and grandchildren.
- Efforts to strengthen pension plans and enhance retirement security for all Americans.
- Balancing the federal and state budgets without increased taxes.
- Using technology and improved management principles to deliver the highest quality of government services at the lowest

possible cost.

- Holding corporate executives individually responsible for specific crimes that undermine the honesty and rule of law free markets require.
- Policies that encourage individuals to save and invest.
- An immediate end to the double taxation of income thrust on Missourians with the ill-advised passage of SB 380 in 1993.
- Opening new markets for American products.
- Reducing government regulation and restrictions that prevent the creation of jobs and growing Missouri businesses.
- Revitalizing our urban communities through policies that encourage the creation of jobs and economic opportunities.
- Streamlining government at all levels by eliminating fraud, waste and abuse.
- An immediate end to the policy of allowing the governor to submit a budget based on speculative tax proposals.

“Missouri families can be trusted to know how to spend their money more wisely than government.”

Future

The future belongs to those who prepare for it. As Republicans, we firmly believe America's best and brightest days are ahead of us. We are optimistic about the future, confident of our abilities to shape for each succeeding generation a Nation and State that are far better than we now enjoy.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party

SUPPORTS:

- President Bush's efforts to create a culture of service and responsibility in America, where each one of us is responsible for respecting our neighbors and taking ownership of our actions and words.
- Efforts to create peace, stability and democracy in the world.

***“We are optimistic
about the future...”***

These are the principles that unite us as a Party and for which we proudly stand. We invite all who share our vision and optimism for a brighter future to join us.

Our solemn pledge to each other, to the United States of America we love so much and to the future of the Great State of Missouri can be found in the American's Creed:

"WE BELIEVE in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation, of many sovereign states, a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. We therefore believe it is our duty to our country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

The 2004
Missouri Republican Party
Platform Committee

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